

Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method of swaging a spherical bearing comprising a ball and a bearing housing, the method comprising:
  - providing a ball and a bearing housing to be swaged around the ball;
  - creating a temperature differential between the temperature of the housing and the temperature of the ball, the ball being at a lower temperature than the housing such that the relative size of the ball with respect to the housing decreases;
  - inserting the ball in the housing;
  - swaging the housing around the ball, the ball being cooler than the housing during the swaging process;
  - allowing the ball and housing to return to ambient temperature such that the relative size of the ball with respect to the housing increases.
2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the ball is manufactured of a first material and the housing is manufactured of a second material, the two materials being different from one another.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature differential is created by cooling the ball.
4. (Original) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the ball is cooled to below 0°C.
5. (Original) A method according to Claim 4, wherein the ball is cooled by liquid nitrogen.
6. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature differential is caused by heating the housing.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature differential is caused by heating the housing and cooling the ball.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the act of swaging comprises a taper die swaging process.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the temperature differential is created by cooling the ball.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the temperature differential is caused by heating the housing.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the temperature differential also is caused by heating the housing.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 4, wherein the temperature differential also is caused by heating the housing.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 5, wherein the temperature differential also is caused by heating the housing.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the temperature differential is caused by heating the housing and cooling the ball.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 15, wherein the ball is cooled to below 0°C.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 16, wherein the ball is cooled by liquid nitrogen.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the act of swaging comprises a taper die swaging process.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the act of swaging comprises a taper die swaging process.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the act of swaging comprises a taper die swaging process.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the act of swaging comprises a taper die swaging process.

22. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the act of swaging comprises reducing a gap between the ball and an inner surface of the housing.

23. (New) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the tapered die swaging process comprises placing the ball and the housing in a tapered opening of a die and swaging the housing around the ball.